

Amendments to the Specification

1. Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

-- In other words, as shown in FIG. 14, at first, from a lower sintered block B united with a plurality of sintered layers, the excess portion on the surface and the side thereof is removed by using a cutting tool ~~[[4]]~~ 41 or the like. In the next place, when forming an upper sintered block B + 1, by which the lower sintered block B is to be united with a plurality of sintered layers on its surface, with respect to the outside surface of the lower sintered block B, from which the excess portion has been removed and has a smooth finished surface, the excess powder material at the periphery thereof is attached and sintered. As a result, an excess sintered portion 17 hanging like an icicle is formed. Then, even if the excess portion is cut and removed from the sintered block B + 1 on the excess sintered portion 17 by using the cutting tool ~~[[4]]~~ 41 or the like, this excess sintered portion 17 is not removed and is left. Therefore, on the outer surface of the accomplished three-dimensional object, regularities due to the excess sintered portion 17 are formed.--

2. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

-- The invention ~~set forth in claim 1~~ may include the steps of: (a) forming a powder material layer of inorganic material;

(b) irradiating an optical beam on a predetermined portion of the powder material layer to form a first sintered layer and integrate the first sintered layer with a second layer just below the first sintered layer; (c) repeating the steps of (a) and (b) to form a sintered block united with a plurality of the first and second sintered layers, the sides of the sintered block including a concave portion; (d) removing an excess portion from a surface of the sintered block; and (e) repeating the steps (c) and (d) with respect to the sintered block from which the excess portion is removed, in order to make a target shape of a three-dimensional object united with a plurality of the sintered blocks. According to the invention set forth in claim 1, forming the concave portion at the sides of the sintered block and thrusting the upper part of the sintered block relatively to the outside, a hanging portion of the excess sintered portion is accepted by the concave portion of the lower part of the sintered block.--

3. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

--According to another embodiment of the invention ~~set forth in claim 2~~, the above-described concave portion is formed on a lower part of the sintered block. The hanging portion of the excess sintered portion runs through the sides of the upper part of the sintered block to be accepted by the concave portion of the lower part of the sintered block.--

4. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

--According to a further embodiment of the invention ~~set forth in claim 3~~, an upper surface of the concave portion is substantially declined from the outside toward the inside. The hanging portion of the excess sintered portion is accepted by the concave portion of the lower part of the sintered block and more hanging portion of the excess sintered portion can be accepted by the declined space.--

5. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention ~~set forth in claim 4~~ further may further include the step of uniting with a thin sheet covering the top surface of the sintered block from which the excess portion is removed. By arranging the thin sheet of a larger area than that of the sintered block, which covers the sintered block from which the excess sintered portion is removed, the hanging of the excess sintered portion can be prevented.--

6. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention ~~set forth in claim 5~~ further may further include the step of treating the surface of the sintered block removed the excess portion to be unreactive with the powder material. By treating the surface of the sintered block

removed the excess portion to be low reactive with the powder material, it is possible to prevent the excess sintered portion.--

7. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention ~~set forth in claim 6~~ further may further include the step of, after the step of treating the surface, the step of placing non-adhesive powder around the surface of the sintered block. By arranging the non-adhesive powder around the surface of the sintered block, of which surface is treated, it is possible to prevent the excess sintered portion from being generated due to attachment of the powder material around the surface of the sintered block.—

8. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

--The invention ~~set forth in claim 7~~ further may further include the step of, after the step of treating the surface, placing a mask on the top surface of the sintered block, the mask having an aperture that is approximately equal to the outline of the sintered block. By arranging the mask having the aperture that is approximately equal to the outline of the sintered block, of which surface is treated, it is possible to prevent the excess sintered portion from being generated due to attachment of the powder material around the surface of the sintered block.--

9. Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--In addition, the invention ~~set forth in claim 8~~ may further include the steps of (a) forming a powder material layer of inorganic material; (b) irradiating an optical beam along an outline of predetermined portion to be sintered of the powder material layer to form an outline sintered portion; (c) irradiating the optical beam on all of predetermined portions to be sintered of the powder material layer to form a first sintered layer and integrate the first sintered layer with a second sintered layer just below the first sintered layer, in which each of the predetermined portions is the predetermined portion; (d) repeating the steps (a) and (c) to form a sintered block united with a plurality of the first and second sintered layers; (e) removing an excess portion from a surface of the sintered block; and (f) repeating the steps (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) with respect to the sintered block removed the excess portion to make a target shape of a three-dimensional object united with a plurality of the sintered blocks. If the optical beam is irradiated throughout the portion to be sintered after providing an outline-sintered portion having a high heat conductivity along an outline of the predetermined portion to be sintered, the heat to be generated by the irradiation of the optical beam may be conducted to the powder material layer at the inside of the outline-sintered portion and the lower sintered block through the outline-sintered portion having a high heat conductivity, so that it prevents the heat from being conducted from the outline-sintered portion to the outside thereof. As a

result, by attachment of the powder material on the side surface of the lower sintered block, it is possible to prevent the excess sintered portion hanging like an icicle from being generated.--